



JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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JOHNSON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

As usual, on the weekend closest to September 18 there were dinners in various parts of the world to celebrate the "Immortal Memory" of Samuel Johnson. In Lichfield nearly 200 Johnsonians attended the annual supper at the Guildhall, where they were served beefsteak and kidney pudding and smoked the traditional churchwarden pipes. Sir Ben Lockspeiser, the new President, who is an eminent aeronautical engineer, spoke on Johnson's ideas about flying.

In Oslo, Norway, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, there were the customary dinners. We have received long accounts of the latter, with lists of the numerous toasts, and names of prize winners in an essay contest on the topic "Dr. Johnson's Message for Today." Albert Hall-Johnson is this year's President.

On the gracious invitation of Donald and Mary Hyde some sixty-five Johnsonians dined at "Four Oaks Farm" in Somerville on the 18th. The chief speaker was George Sherburn, who had as his topic "Johnson as a Letter Writer". And through a remarkable act of metempsychosis the spirits of Johnson, Boswell and Mrs. Thrale came back to describe the treasures of the Hyde collection, which after dinner were on display. It was a night -- not just an evening -- never to be forgotten. As a present for their guests, the Hydes had prepared a pamphlet entitled "Dr. Johnson's Second Wife," in which for the first time evidence was brought forward to prove that after the death of Tetty, Johnson definitely decided to seek a new wife. Possible candidates for the position, and reasons why he never did re-marry are all discussed in this valuable piece.

DR. JOHNSON'S BARBER

From Barnstable on Cape Cod, Ralph Isham sent the following message to the Johnsonians gathered at "Four Oaks Farm."

For years Fritz kept beneath his hat
The name of Johnson's other cat;
And then, atoning for this sin,
By printed word he let us in.

Now I, of treasures stripped, make bold
 To say that one thing I still hold
 Of information -- nothing shocking,
 Nothing that one could call world-rocking.
 What is it then that I still harbor?
 Well - 'tis the name of Johnson's barber!
 A man who should receive our praise,
 Since he for some eight thousand days
 Rendered our Samson lesser feared
 By constant cutting of his beard.
 This man, long lacking proper fame,
 The time has come to spread his name.
 From Boswell's writing you may cull it,
 Or Goldsmith, but less likely Smollett.
 Herein I give a fact and clue;
 The name itself I leave to you.

There it is. Can any of you guess the answer? Fritz Liebert knew it. But how many others? Not to leave you in breathless suspense for three months, we provide the solution on a later page of this issue.

BOSWELL NOTES

On the 19th of October *Boswell on the Grand Tour: Germany and Switzerland, 1764* will be published by McGraw-Hill in this country and Heinemann in England. Fred Pottle is again the editor. This volume contains Boswell's complete Journal for the period, and various collateral documents adding further details. Included is a hitherto unknown letter from Voltaire to Boswell. Since the interviews of Boswell with Rousseau and Voltaire are among the high spots in all Boswell's journals, we look forward to the volume with eagerness.

Some excerpts entitled "Conversations with Rousseau" appeared in the *Saturday Review of Literature* for October 3. Further selections will appear in *Punch*. Arrangements have already been made with Hachette in Paris for a French translation.

George Parks (Queens) sends in word that on the afternoon of Saturday, August 1, the NBC network presented the half-hour BBC production of "The Boswell Story," described in one of our earlier numbers.

Just sent to us is a copy of a poem by Edmund Blunden entitled "As Boswell Records," which appeared in *Wine and Food* No. 78, Summer 1953. This is published by the Wine and Food Society, 30 Grosvenor Gardens, London S.W.1. The theme of the song is Johnson's remark, "Not to drink wine is a great deduction from life."

André Maurois writes of "Boswell en Hollande (1763-64)" in the July number of *La Revue de Paris*.

SWIFT NOTES

This is a banner year for critical appraisals of Swift's rhetorical art. Three new books concentrate on this topic: John M. Bullitt, *Jonathan Swift: and the Anatomy of Satire* (Harvard Univ. Press); Martin Price, *Swift's Rhetorical Art* (Yale Univ. Press); and W. B. Ewald, *The Masks of Jonathan Swift* (to be published soon in England." Once we have an opportunity to examine all three we hope to make some observations on their similarities and accomplishments.

Ricardo Quintana's *Mind and Art of Jonathan Swift*, long out of print and virtually unobtainable, has now been reissued, this time by Methuen, with very minor changes and additions.

There are a number of other important publications coming in the near future. In the spring the Clarendon Press will publish a book by Louis Landa (Princeton) having to do with Swift's clerical career. Sir Harold Williams's new edition of Swift's correspondence is moving steadily forward. Vol. XII (later Irish tracts) of Herbert Davis's edition is about ready for the press. We hear that the Indiana Univ. Press is bringing out a monograph by Irvin Ehrenpreis. And rumor has it that J. Middleton Murry is at work on a study of Swift. The flood continues unabated.

Some recent articles to be mentioned are: George Sherburn, "The Swift-Pope Miscellanies of 1732: a Corrigendum," *Harvard Library Bulletin* for Spring 1953; Ernest Tuveson, "Swift: the Dean as Satirist" (concerned with the 4th voyage of Gulliver), *Univ. of Toronto Quarterly* for July; Maurice Johnson, "Swift and 'The Greatest Epitaph in History,'" in *PMLA* for September. A somewhat jaundiced but interesting review article concerned with Quintana and Bullitt by Donald Davie appeared in *The Twentieth Century* for September.

A POPE CELEBRATION IN 1888

Through the kindness of Mr. T. V. Roberts, Borough Librarian of the Twickenham Public Libraries, Bill Wimsatt (Yale) has recently come into possession of a copy of *The Pope Commemoration Supplement to the Richmond and Twickenham Times*, issued Saturday, August 4, 1888. He sends on the following account which may be of interest to our readers.

"The week-long commemoration of Pope's two-hundredth anniversary which began at Twickenham on Monday, July 30, of that year, is probably best known to modern scholars through the *Loan Museum Catalogue* of books, manuscripts, pictures, and personal relics exhibited in the Twickenham Town Hall. This exhibition,

with an opening ceremony on Tuesday, was reported in the ordinary issue of the paper. Less well known I dare say are some features of the commemoration--especially certain extraordinary events of Monday night--which are described in the four lavishly illustrated jumbo pages (18 x 29 inches) of the *Supplement*.

"Plans for a 'Water Fete', or illuminated carnival on the river below Pope's villa, were somewhat damped by a violent storm during the afternoon and evening. But even so, a little after eight o'clock lighted boats began to appear in the Cross Deep. One of the local promoters, a certain 'Mr. Clifford,' (no relation to your editor) created the impression of a long string of boats when he put up Vauxhall lamps along the outer bend of Eel Pie Island. A famous old pleasure barge, the *Maria Wood*, brightly decorated with Chinese lanterns, was moored in midstream. It was 140 feet long and nineteen wide and had two decks, on which 350 ladies and gentlemen were closely packed listening to the music of a brass band. 'An object which attracted a great deal of attention was a boat bearing the letter "P" formed by Vauxhall lamps, and the words otherwise illuminated on a sail, "Webb's Lock and Weir will improve all."' "

"A large crowd of visitors entered Pope's grounds through his grotto. 'Chinese lanterns depended from the roof, the light glittering back from what remained of the mirrors and polished stones with which it was lined in Pope's days.' 'Passing out of the grotto, under the initials "A.P.", formed with Vauxhall lamps, the 'visitors found themselves on the lawn.... Pope's Villa stood out in all the brilliance of limelight, from the top of the tower, which also bore the initials of the poet, to the lawn itself. Sometimes the glaring white of the illumination was changed to a warm red or a soft green, but it was kept on the house throughout the evening. Other limelight lanterns were used to flash their lights upon the stately cedars, then to the *Maria Wood*, or the small boats on the river, and ever and anon sweeping along the Surrey shore, after the manner of the search lights on a war ship, and suddenly revealing the presence of possibly from one to two thousand persons on the towing path. Somewhere in the neighborhood rockets were going up.

"The essays on Pope which fill out the pages of this *Supplement*, especially some remarks on 'Pope and Womankind' by L. F. Austin, exhibit a good deal of that patronizing moral superiority which we readily associate with the Victorian era in Pope criticism and which our own era of tolerant perspectives has so nicely transcended. Yet the illuminated celebration at Pope's Villa on that night in 1888 (the year before the completion of the Elwin-Courthope edition of Pope) represents, I venture to say, a moment in the history of homage to Alexander Pope which is not likely soon to be repeated."

AN APPEAL

From Geoffrey Beard ("Parkfield," 80 High Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge, England) comes the following communication:

"On March 5, 1744, Miss Utrechia Smith died at Mickleton, Gloucestershire. Such an event may not have been regarded as anything but ordinary except that 'Uty' was the friend of William Shenstone and Richard Graves, literary figures of no mean importance in the eighteenth century. Shenstone met the young woman at Mickleton in 1736 when he visited the Graves family. In 1739 the poet wrote his song 'When bright Ophelia treads the green' in her honour. 'Miss Uty' was the daughter of the Rev. William Smith, curate of Mickleton and tutor to Richard Graves. At her death Graves had an urn placed in the church at Mickleton.

"All this may seem uneventful but this urn, a modest monument 3' 3" high, has fallen into disrepair and its restoration is beyond the means of a small country parish. This appeal is, therefore, being sent to a limited number of students of eighteenth century literature. The sum of £25 is needed to repair the urn and to place it more worthily in the church, and any sum will be gratefully received by the undersigned. All subscribers will, in due course, receive news of the progress of the work."

In another letter, Beard makes a more general suggestion: "It is a matter of common concern that the last resting places of literary figures, major and minor, often fall into disrepair and neglect. Often a small sum of money spent judiciously and promptly would arrest decay. Could an international body be formed with a small annual subscription which could in time make small grants to local appeals for these purposes. Is such an idea impracticable? I should welcome the views of readers of JNL."

NEW BOOKS

James J. Lynch's *Box, Pit and Gallery: Stage and Society in Johnson's London* (Univ. of Calif. Press) is an attractive volume, which all those interested in the 18th-century theatre will want to have. The book is divided into three parts: (1) Repertory; (2) The Conditions -- Professional (manager, actor, playwright); and (3) Conditions -- Amateur (audience, fashions, novelty and variety, politics, morals, criticism, etc.). What Lynch has tried to do is to provide a general commentary on all aspects of the theatre of Garrick and Rich.

A useful tool for those working on Thomas Gray is Herbert W. Starr's *A Bibliography of Thomas Gray 1917-1951: with Material Supplementary to C. S. Northup's Bibliography of Thomas Gray* (Temple Univ. Publications). After so much labor it may appear ungenerous to ask for more, but we wish Starr had included a

critical summary of changing attitudes toward Gray and estimates of the worth of the more important research. And we must lament the retention of the old method of listing material by years, rather than alphabetically under various headings. The long section of "General Criticism" which occupies almost sixty pages would have been more useful if broken up into smaller parts, each alphabetically arranged. We can say this with more feeling since we made the same mistake of putting too much into one general section in our own *Johnsonian Studies*.

The following publications of the Augustan Reprint Society have not been listed in *JNL*: *Thomas Warton: A History of English Poetry: an Unpublished Continuation*, with an Introduction by Rodney M. Baine; *Edward Bysshe: The Art of English Poetry (1708)*, with an Introduction by A. Dwight Culler; *Bernard Mandeville: A Letter to Dion (1732)*, with an Introduction by Jacob Viner; and *Prefaces to Four Seventeenth-Century Romances*, with an Introduction by Charles Davies. In the last named, works by Roger Boyle, Sir George Mackenzie, Nathaniel Ingelo, and Robert Boyle are included. If you have never subscribed, or have let your subscription run out, get your name on the list by sending \$3 (for six items) to the William Andrews Clark Library, 2205 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 18.

In a little pamphlet published by the Clark Library appear two interesting addresses: George R. Potter, "Problems in the Editing of Donne's Sermons"; and John Butt, "Editorial Problems in Eighteenth-Century Poetry."

We are delighted to see James Sutherland's edition of the *Dunciad* back in print. Undergraduate teachers will be glad to have a selection of Dryden's works in the inexpensive Rinehart series. William Frost has done the editing.

Though we hear it is out, we haven't yet seen M. H. Abrams, *The Mirror and the Lamp*, largely concerned with the early nineteenth century, but important for those interested in 18th-century criticism. More about it later. Other books to be mentioned are: Russell Kirk, *The Conservative Mind: From Burke to Santayana*; Montague Weekley, *Thomas Bewick*; Albert D. Belden, *George Whitefield -- the Awakener*; an edition of Lillo's *The London Merchant*, with an Introduction by Bonamy Dobrée (Grove Press).

Other books which should soon be available are *The Life of Joseph Addison* by Peter Smithers (O.U.P.) and Fielding's *Shamela*, edited by Sheridan W. Baker (Univ. of Calif. Press). Jim Osborn suggests that we also mention a new series to be called *English Historical Documents* -- twelve volumes under the general editorship of Professor David Douglas of Bristol University. The Publisher is Eyre and Spottiswoode. Each volume will contain

about half a million words. The one covering 1660-1714, edited by Andrew Browning of Glasgow, is announced as in the press, which probably means publication in 1953.

In *University of Colorado Studies: Series in Language and Literature No. 4*, which has just appeared, there are two 18th-century items: Robert Thornton, "Twentieth-Century Scholarship on the Songs of Robert Burns"; and Henry Pettit, "Pope's *Eloisa to Abelard*: an Interpretation."

FOR STERNE ENTHUSIASTS

Dick Boys (Mich.) sends in the following newspaper clipping, with the comment "As an old Uncle Toby fan you will appreciate this."

"Tokyo, July 16 (UP) - The town of Hiro, near Hiroshima, launched a 'fly-extermination' campaign today.... In the presence of Mayor J. Suzuki and high-ranking officials from the Hiroshima prefecture, a black-robed Buddhist priest intoned: 'Dear flies, we always wish to live amicably with all creatures in this world. It is therefore really to be regretted that you do nothing but harm to man and that we have in consequence to exterminate you to the last member of your species. Dear flies, have no rancour against us for killing you but accept in manly fashion the inevitable consequence of your being born in this world as flies.'"

JOHNSON NOTES

At Christie's in London, on Friday, July 10, a celebrated portrait of Johnson was sold -- the one painted by Reynolds for Edmund Malone in 1775. The purchaser was the firm of Barclay Perkins; the price, 3,000 guineas. So the old Thrale brewery now has a splendid picture of the man who, as one of Thrale's executors, was active in the sale of the company to the present owners. The portrait will adorn the firm's board-room. Included in the same sale was Reynolds's portrait of Peggy Owen, Mrs. Thrale's distant cousin.

We are happy to receive the program for next year of the Johnson Society of London, and pass on the schedule of meetings, in the event that some of you may be in London during the winter and able to attend a few of the gatherings at the Alpine Club in South Audley Street. You may be sure that you will be made welcome. The dates and topics are as follows: 17 October, "George Berkeley, Philosopher and Bishop" by Dean Matthews, the President of the Society; 21 November, "Eighteenth Century Architecture" by Hamilton Kerr; 19 December, "Sir Joshua Reynolds as a Humanist" by F. N. Doubleday; 16 January, "Johnson, and the Editing of Shakespeare" by Harold Brooks; 20 February, "Anna Seward" by Percy Laithwaite; 20 March, "Gibbon in Lausanne" by G. R. de Beer; 10 April, "Johnson and Chesterfield" by T. S. Blakeney. We are

pleased, too, to see No. 23 of *The New Rambler* (July 1953), filled as usual with interesting news items.

Rea Keast is preparing for the Cornell Univ. Press a volume containing all of Johnson's critical essays, exclusive of the *Lives of the Poets*. This will make easily accessible the whole body of his literary criticism.

We have a sheaf of articles to list: Benjamin Boyce, "Johnson and Chesterfield Once More" in *PQ* for January 1953; G. Lacey May, "Religious Letters of Dr. Johnson" in *Church Quarterly Review* for April-June; A. D. Atkinson, "Dr. Johnson's English Prose Reading" in *N&Q* for May, July, August; Donald J. Greene, "'No Warbler He' -- a Contemporary Tribute to Johnson" (*The Authors* by D. Hayes) in *N&Q* for June; Warren Mild, "Johnson and Lauder: a Reexamination" in *MLQ* for June; Robert F. Metzendorf, "Samuel Johnson in Brunswick" (a German translation of *Taxation No Tyranny*) in *MLN* for June; T. S. Watt, "A Pension for Johnson" (pretty feeble stuff!) in *Punch* for June 17; Francis G. Schoff, "Johnson on Juvenal" in *N&Q* for July; T. J. Monaghan, "Johnson's Additions to his Shakespeare for the Edition of 1773" in *RES* for July; T. J. Brown, "English Literary Autographs: VI, Samuel Johnson" in *The Book Collector* for Summer 1953.

We are glad to mention also three reviews of R. W. Chapman's edition of the *Letters*: by Arundell Esdaile in the *Quarterly Review* for July; by A. Shepperson in *Virginia Quarterly Review* for Summer 1953; and in *TLS* for September 18.

SOME RECENT ARTICLES

Concerned with Dryden and Pope are: H. W. Jones, "Some Further Pope-Dryden Indebtedness" in *N&Q* for May 1953; James Kinsley, "Dryden and the *Encomium Musicae*" in *RES* for July; John M. Aden, "Dryden and Boileau: the Question of Critical Influence" in *SP* for July; Aubrey Williams, "Literary Background to Book Four of the *Dunciad*" in *PMLA* for Sept; W. J. Cameron, "An Overlooked Dryden Printing" in *N&Q* for August.

Having to do with Berkeley are: "Berkeley in Ireland" in *TLS* for June 12; Henry M. Fuller, "Bishop Berkeley as a Benefactor of Yale," in *Yale Library Gazette* for July; Donald J. Greene, "Smart, Berkeley, the Scientists and the Poets: a Note on Eighteenth-century Anti-Newtonianism" in *JHI* for June.

A few on general topics: Herbert M. Schueller, "Correspondence between Music and the Sister Arts, According to 18th Century Aesthetic Theory" in *Journal of Aesthetic and Art Criticism* for June; Ronald S. Crane, "On Writing the History of English Criticism, 1650-1800" in *Univ. of Toronto Quarterly* for July; Margaret Turner, "'Natural Philosophy,' and Eighteenth Century Satire" in *N&Q* for July; E. Gordon Rupp, "Some Reflections on the Origin and

Development of the English Methodist Tradition, 1738-1898" in *London Quarterly and Holborn Review* for July.

For those interested in the novelists: Catherine L. Almirall, "Smollett's 'Gothic': an Illustration" in *MLN* for June; Louis F. Peck, "*The Monk* and *Le Diable Amoureux*" in the same issue; Sheridan W. Baker, "Fielding and 'Stultus Versus Sapientem'" in *N&Q* for August.

On miscellaneous topics: David M. Vieth, "John Oldham, the Wits, and a *Satyr Against Vertue*" in *PQ* for January; W. J. Cameron, "Bibliography of Ned Ward" in *N&Q* for July; Robert Hough, "An Error in 'The Recruiting Officer'" in *N&Q* for August; Oscar Sherwin, Matthew Decker, "18th Century Single Taxer" in *Journal of Economics and Sociology* for July; Lindsay Fleming, "Daffy's Elixer" in *N&Q* for June and August, and "2 Hanover Square" in the August number; J. P. Wallis, "William Stevenson, a Reforming Physician-Poet" in *N&Q* for May; Elma Hailey, "Charles Brietzche's Diary 1760" in *N&Q* for May and August; John H. MacKenzie, "Susan Centlivre" in *N&Q* for September.

A few having to do with the late century: J. T. Boulton, "The Reflections: Burke's Preliminary Draft and Methods of Composition" in *Durham Univ. Journal* for June; Russell Kirk, "Burke and the Philosophy of Prescription" in *JHI* for June; W. M. Parker, "'Our Scottish Addison'" in *Quarterly Review* for July; Allan H. MacLaine, "New Light on the Genesis of the Burns Stanza" in *N&Q* for August; David V. Erdman, "'Blake' Entries in Godwin's Diary" in *N&Q* for August.

Two articles in the August number of *N&Q* require additional comment. A. L. McLeod in "Pope and Gay: Two Overlooked Manuscripts" identifies as by Pope a manuscript which the Morgan Library had tentatively catalogued as by John Gay because of what was thought to be "IG" at the end. George Sherburn writes that he considers the attribution to Pope "certainly wrong," and points out that what was read as "IG" is really the word "Fly". In Vedder M. Gilbert's "Unrecorded Comments on John Gay, Henry Travers, and Others" the first anonymous appearance of Book I of the *Essay on Man* is not identified as by Pope.

JOHNSON'S BARBER -- THE SOLUTION

In. Col. Isham's collection is a little card on which Boswell wrote that "Mr. Collett," who had shaved Dr. Johnson for twenty-five years, wished to be made a porter at India House. Now, can anyone tell us more about the man -- his full name and where he lived?

ANECDOTES OF JOHNSON AND GARRICK

From Arthur Cooke (Kentucky) come some anecdotes culled from an interesting manuscript (B.M. Add. MS. 18, 561) entitled "Anecdotes of the Nobility and Distinguished Persons of England of the Earlier Eighteenth Century" written by Sir Richard Kaye, Dean of Lincoln. They are typical gossip stories of the period, not very dependable, perhaps, but worth passing on. For JNL, punctuation and spelling have been normalized. Page thirty begins:

"Garrick was born at Hereford on his mother's way to Lichfield. He was always afraid of Johnson who despised him. Johnson falls pat upon the Bishop of Bristol. He said Tom Newton could not bear a rival Lichfield man. He once called upon Garrick in Southampton Street Covent Garden after the play. Garrick was gone to bed. Johnson went up stairs. What David in bed already? Get up and I'll flatter thee. Garrick was conscious of his own want of learning. He was always silent when Foote was by. He could not keep up a second in conversation. Foote had great wit. In Dr. Vyse's residence house at Lichfield Garrick acted first. The applause fired him and he went to Ipswich! Lord Mansfield desired Dr. Turton to bring Garrick to dine with him. He had the gout in his foot but would go, and he put on a common shoe. When he got near the house said he would not sit at table with so great a man in his large shoe. At dinner a Polish prince being asked what wine he chose said he never drunk anything but Tokay. Lord Mansfield had a quart brought up. The Pole and Garrick finished it and Garrick went home in the small shoe.

"...Garrick when a guinea a piece was collected by Dr. Johnson for Simpson gave a rouleau of 20 guineas. He had also lent Berenger 500£. He gave him one or two hundred more and destroyed the bond. He never had money in his pocket. On riding out Keate often lent him a shilling for a poor person and paid for him at an opera. He knew nothing of money."

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS

We are happy to see specimen pages of the projected *Correspondence of Edmund Burke*, to be published by the Univ. of Chicago Press. Tom Copeland, the general editor, plans to spend the next two years in England helping to prepare the first volumes. A group of active editors has been chosen, as well as a large advisory committee.

Robert Manson Myers (Newcomb College) has a Fulbright for research in England, preparing a life of Susannah Maria Cibber (1714-1766).

We haven't yet seen the new film of the *Beggar's Opera*, with Sir Laurence Olivier as Macheath, but hope to soon. We hear conflicting reports, but all agree about the Hogarthian quality of the setting.

The *Bulletin* of the Institute of Historical Research, for May 1953, contains a number of announcements of interest to 18th-century scholars. Manuscript indexes for the records of the House of Lords are now available for the period 1704-1818 at the Lords Record Office. There are a number of interesting accessions reported for the British Museum: papers of Sir Philip Francis, the reputed author of the letters of Junius; family papers of the Burneys; an autobiographical memoir of James Northcote, the artist and pupil of Sir Joshua Reynolds. The Bodleian Library at Oxford has acquired copies of letters written from Italy by John Talman, 1708-1712.

Jim Osborn suggests that we mention also some doctoral dissertations in progress in England: J. E. McCabe, "The Attitude of Edmund Burke toward Christianity in the Churches" (Edinburgh); R. B. Ballinger, "The Early Political Career of Robert Harley, 1690-1705" (Cambridge); P. T. Underdown, "Edmund Burke as a Member of Parliament for Bristol, 1774-1780" (London); J. N. Osborne, "The Life of the Second Duke of Newcastle" (Nottingham).

Donald Bond (Chicago) was the first to send in the answer to the query of where in Johnson's works appeared the reference to "rejection and contempt of fiction." It was in the *Life of Addison*, where we should have found it ourselves, but perhaps it was the context (à propos of the Campaign) which threw us off. How badly we do need a really good concordance, or a thorough index of Johnson's remarks!

The Sotheby's catalogue for July 27-29 lists an extra-illustrated copy of Mrs. Piozzi's *Anecdotes*, with notes possibly in her hand. If anyone can tell us the purchaser, we shall be much obliged.

Those interested in 18th-century American history and literature are advised to write to the Institute of Early American History and Culture, Box 1298, Williamsburg, Va. for a copy of the most recent *News Letter*.

SOME LITTLE KNOWN REMARKS OF JOHNSON

Henry Francis Cary, in his *Lives of English Poets* (1846), recorded some anecdotes of the Great Cham which may not be familiar to many of you. We venture to pass on two of them. "The mention of Milton, and of his politics, brings to my mind two sayings of Johnson's that were related to me by

Mr. Price, of Lichfield. After passing an evening together at Mr. Seward's, the father of the poetess, where, in the course of conversation, the words 'Me miserable!' in *Paradise Lost*, had been commended as highly pathetic, they had walked some way along the street in silence, which the good man was not likely first to break, when Johnson suddenly stopped, and turning round to him, exclaimed, 'Sir! don't you think that "Me miserable" is miserable stuff?'

"On another occasion he thus whimsically described the different manner in which he felt himself disposed towards a Whig and a Tory. 'If,' said he, 'I saw a Whig and a Tory drowning, I would first save the Tory; and when I saw that he was safe, not till then, I would go and help the Whig; but the dog should duck first; the dog should duck': laughing with pleasure at the thoughts of the Whig's ducking."

LATE ADDITIONS

A long delay at the printers allows us to make a few additions. We are glad to see a copy of Wallace Cable Brown's new biography *Charles Churchill: Poet, Rake, and Rebel* (Univ. of Kansas Press). More about "The Bruiser" next time. We haven't yet seen the novel *Dear Mrs. Boswell* by Marie Muir (Macmillan), or Clarence Tracy's life of Richard Savage, though both are momentarily expected.

Some important articles: David Perkins, "Johnson on Wit and Metaphysical Poetry" in *ELH* for September; James M. Osborn, "Johnson's 'Intimate Friend'" (Stephen Barrett), *TLS* for October 9; Irvin Ehrenpreis, "Swift's April Fool for a Bibliophile" in *Book Collector* for Autumn 1953; David V. Erdman, "Blake's Early Swedenborgianism: a Twentieth Century Legend" in *Comparative Literature* for Summer 1953; Martin S. Day, "The Influence of Mason's 'Heroic Epistle'" in *MLQ* for September; Rachel Trickett, "The Augustan Pantheon: Mythology and Personification in Eighteenth Century Poetry" in *Essays and Studies* for 1953; Vivian de S. Pinto, "John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, and the Right Veine of Satire" in the same volume.

Volume 1 of the new Univ. of California edition of Dryden is now in the press.